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MATCH

SATURDAY,
MAY 27,
1989

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KENNY'S HEROES!

RUSH
KEEPS
'DOUBLE'
DREAM
ALIVE

9

GREAT
CUP FINAL
PAGES

JUBILANT John Barnes and team-mate Barry Venison celebrate Liverpool's FA Cup Final victory. More great colour pictures from the Wembley thriller on Pages 2, 3, 20 and 21, with a Cup Final Extra on Pages 6 and 7. Scottish Cup Final colour on Pages 4 and 5.

CELTIC GLORY!

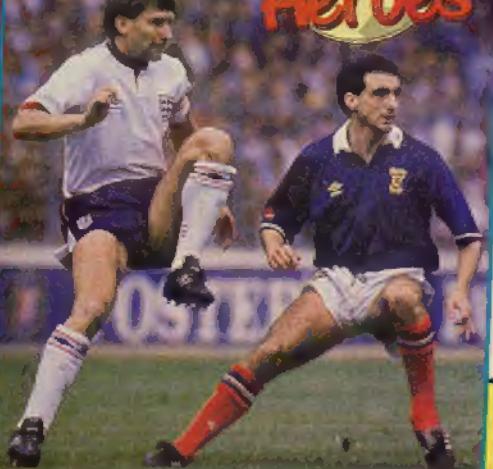
Miller magic ruins
Rangers 'treble' bid.

FREE INSIDE!

GLOSSY DOUBLE-SIDED
PULL-OUT POSTER

BRYAN
ROBSON
ENGLAND

Hampden
Heroes

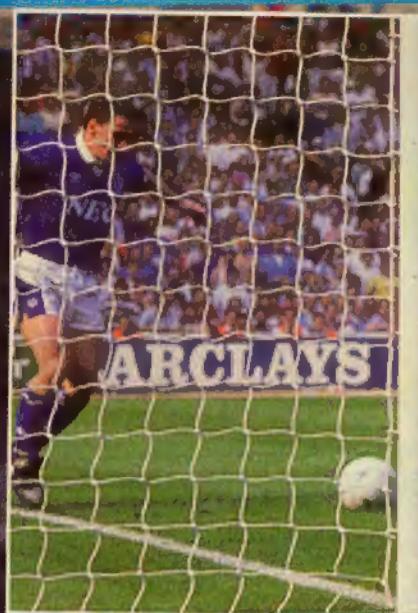


MATCH

PAUL MCSTAY
SCOTLAND

THE BEST
PICTURES ARE
IN MATCH

It's there! With just four
minutes on the clock, John
Aldridge races on to a
McMahon pass to fire a great
shot past Neville Southall and
give Liverpool the perfect start.



Above: Last gasp! With the red ribbons about to be given to the FA Cup and Everton seemingly beaten, a goalmouth scramble ends with Stuart McCall slotting the ball home to make the score 1-1 with just a minute of normal time remaining. Tony Cottee (left) is clear off-side but the goal stands.



Stop that! Ian Rush (14) fires an
unstoppable shot into the
Everton net after turning his
marker Kevin Ratcliffe and
Liverpool are back in the lead at
2-1.

BRING ON THE GUNNERS

NOW KENNY'S CUP HEROES LOOK TO THE

ALSO INSIDE ...

- CELTIC GLORY! COLOUR ACTION FROM HAMPDEN - Pages 4 and 5.
- RAY RYAN REPORTS FROM WEMBLEY - Pages 6 and 7.
- THE GOAL THAT WON THE CUP! IAN RUSH SOUVENIR - Pages 20 and 21.

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LIVERPOOL now stand just 90 minutes away from the elusive 'double double' – their meeting with Championship rivals Arsenal at Anfield on Friday providing a dramatic finish to a season full of drama.

And if the 'Gunners' needed any reminding of the fire power which threatens Cockney hopes of a title-winning knees-up it was there for all to see as Liverpool successfully completed the first leg of their two-trophy chase with victory over Everton in Saturday's FA Cup Final.

Twice the 'Toffees' clawed themselves back into the match when all seemed lost. But not for the first time it was Ian Rush who proved the thorn in their side with two sweetly taken extra-time goals which put all the problems of his troublesome first season at Anfield behind him.

MATCH captures the excitement of one of Wembley's most thrilling encounters in super colour...

CELTIC at last gave the green and white side of Glasgow something to cheer about this season as a Joe Miller goal ended the 'treble' dream for rivals Rangers in the Scottish Cup Final at Hampden Park.

And ironically it was English import Gary Stevens - a man bidding to join the exclusive list of players to enjoy League and Cup success both North and South of the border - who handed the trophy to Celtic on a plate.

His mistake let in Miller, who was clear to fire past Chris Woods in the Rangers goal, and the Cup was on its way to Parkhead.

It's Celtic's Cup and skipper Roy Aitken is hoisted shoulder high after his team had ended Rangers' bid for the elusive tartan treble.

SMOKIN' JOE!

**MILLER KO'S RANGERS
TREBLE DREAM**

There was nothin' thirteenth Scotti-
Hampden hot-sh-
parades the trop-
only goal of the

Left: Joyful Joe
receive the adula-
after scoring the
Scottish FA Cup-



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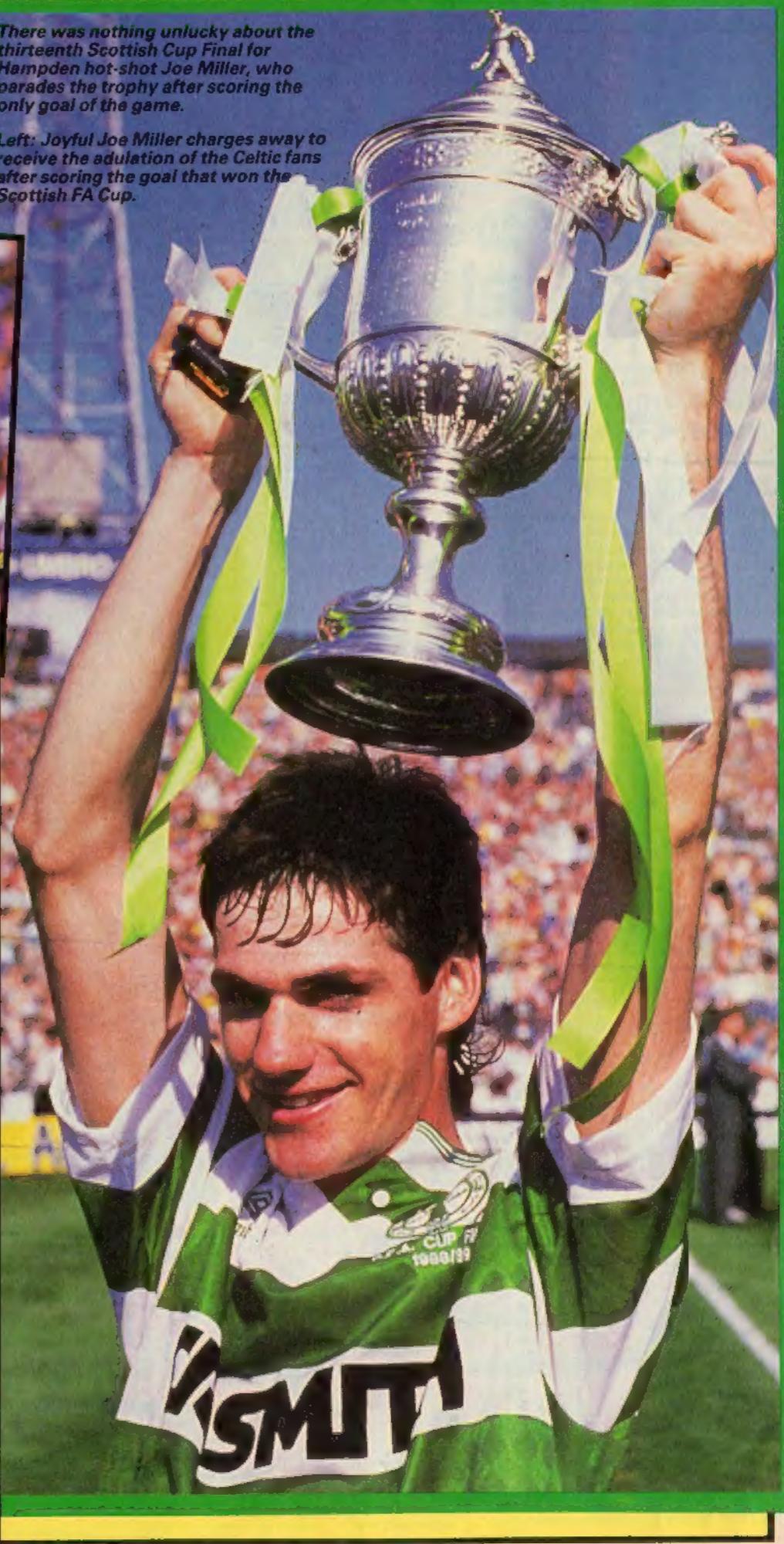
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SMOKIN' JOE!

MILLER KO'S RANGERS TREBLE DREAM



There was nothing unlucky about the thirteenth Scottish Cup Final for Hampden hot-shot Joe Miller, who parades the trophy after scoring the only goal of the game.

Left: Joyful Joe Miller charges away to receive the adulation of the Celtic fans after scoring the goal that won the Scottish FA Cup.

FINAL FAX



**Saturday, May 20
FA Cup Final**

EVERTON (0) 2
(McCall 89, 102)

LIVERPOOL (1) 3
(Aldridge 4, Rush 94, 103)
After extra-time
Att: 82,800 (at Wembley)

WITH two goals and a genuine quality performance STUART McCALL gave Everton hope when all seemed lost. He turned the game when he came on in the 58th minute and was the 'Toffees' star performer with his accurate distribution. For Liverpool meanwhile RAY HOUGHTON was outstanding - producing a vintage performance and covering every blade of grass to make things tick in the 'Reds' engine room.



Star man McCall. Star man Houghton.

EVERTON	Mins pld.	Rating
Southall	120	8
McDonald	120	6
Van den Hauwe	120	6
Ratcliffe	120	6
Watson	120	5
Bracewell	58	5
McCall	62	9*
Nevin	120	8
Steven	120	7
Sharp	120	7
Coffee	120	5
Sheedy	77	6
Wilson	43	7

LIVERPOOL	Mins pld.	Rating
Grobelaar	120	7
Ablett	120	6
Staunton	90	7
Venison	30	7
Nicol	120	8
Whelan	120	7
Hansen	120	8
Beardsley	120	6
Aldridge	72	7
Rush	38	8
Houghton	120	9*
Barnes	120	7
McMahon	120	8

Referee: J. Worrall (Warrington)
Match Rating: ****

Ray Ryan reports on one of the most dramatic Finals ever seen beneath the twin towers ...

FA Cup Final EXTRA!

Rush to the rescue!
Liverpool substitute Ian Rush (far right) watches his right-foot strike beat the diving Neville Southall to restore the Reds' lead at 2-1.

**RUSH DOUBLE
DESTROYS
EVERTON, BUT
IAN ADMITS ...**



Super-sub Stuart McCall is hoisted aloft by skipper Kevin Ratcliffe after his second goal - a stunning volley - had brought Everton level at 2-2. Ian Wilson and Trevor Steven race to add their congratulations.

HEARD AT WEMBLEY

Liverpool had most of the possession throughout the 120 minutes so it was no great surprise they won. But we can be proud that we put in a good performance, made it a hard battle and helped produce a very entertaining spectacle. - Colin Harvey (Everton manager)

We always knew we would be the stronger side going into extra-time so we felt no need to panic. It was a great day and it was a fair result on the run of play. - Ronnie Whelan (Liverpool skipper)

Although I felt we could win going into extra-time, the way Liverpool responded to my two goals shows what a tremendous side they are. Although we've lost it will be a day I'll never forget. - Stuart McCall (Everton goalscorer)

I've been saying all season that we've got the character and ability to win the double and I may now be proved right. It proves that people should never question us, or consider writing us off. - Steve McMahon (Liverpool)

TWO-GOAL hero Ian Rush shot Liverpool to the brink of 'double double' glory on the day he re-wrote the Merseyside record books - and then declared: "I don't think I'll be in the starting line-up for the title decider against Arsenal!"

The Welsh wizard, who came on as a 72nd minute substitute for John Aldridge, blasted the goals which won Kenny Dalglish's 'Red Army' the FA Cup ... but they came so close to disaster.

After leading 1-0 with a minute remaining, the Anfield outfit watched in agony as Everton substitute Stuart McCall grabbed a last-gasp equaliser, sending the thrilling Final into extra-time.

And when Rush put the 'Reds' back in the lead after 94 minutes, McCall levelled the score eight minutes later with a superbly struck volley.

But Rush's deftly-directed glancing header a minute later not only killed off Everton's Cup dream but gave him his 21st goal in Merseyside derby games - beating Dixie Dean's old record by two.

"I'm obviously very proud to beat the scoring record of a legend like Dixie, but to be honest I'm just relieved we won the Cup," Ian said afterwards.

"We should have won in normal time and it was our own

fault that we let things slip with seconds remaining.

"Although Everton's goal came as a bitter blow we showed tremendous character to go back at them.

"Our heads may have gone down briefly but we responded well and it was great personal honour to get the goals which won the Cup."

"However, I still don't think I'll be in the starting line-up for the match against Arsenal on Friday night!"

The 'Reds' match against George Graham's side will decide the destination of the League Championship after one of the most dramatic seasons this century.

But although Ian hasn't featured regularly in the club's march towards the 'double double' he still believes he's had a tremendous season.

"I've come back from Juventus, scored two goals which have won the FA Cup and I'm on the verge of another Championship, so I've no complaints," Ian says.

"Besides, while I'm on the sidelines it means other players are doing well. And if that keeps them on their toes and brings success to Liverpool then it can't be that bad."

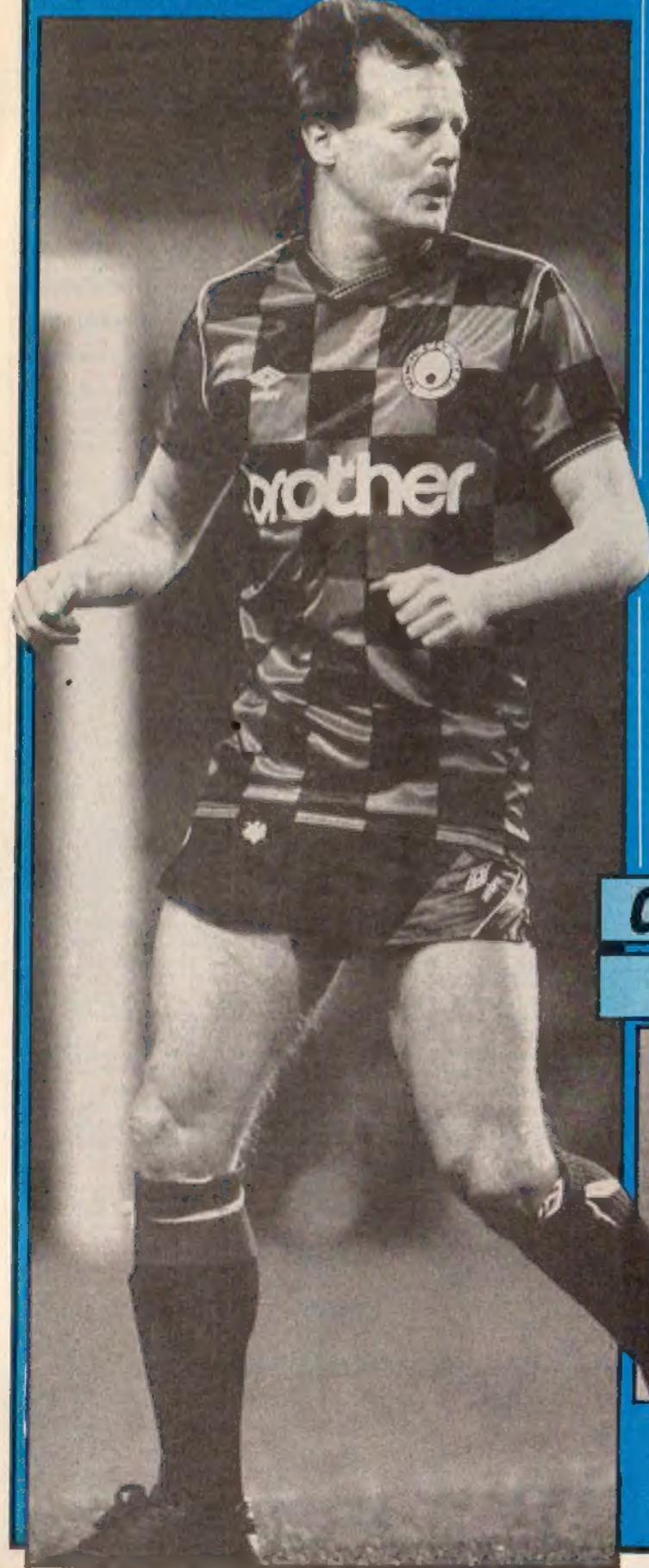
Despite the Cup going to the Red corner of Merseyside it was a day when the whole city united. And as the two teams walked off after 120 minutes of nail-biting football the cry around Wembley was: 'Merseyside, Merseyside' ... an emotional reminder of the heartache left by the tragedy of Hillsborough.

'I WON'T BE PICKED AGAINST ARSENAL!'

MANCHESTER CITY
veteran Neil McNab has
every right to put his feet
up this summer.

At the ripe old age of 31, the
much-travelled midfield general
deserves a rest after leading his
City troops back to Division One
after a season he readily admits
was the hardest of his career.
After looking clear favourites to

join Chelsea as one of the two
sides automatically promoted to
the First Division, the Maine Road
side let things slip and had to fight
a nail-biting last match of the
season before clinching their
ticket to the top flight.
And Neil's determination in
ensuring that Mel Machin's side
crept through to the top flight was
rewarded when he was voted the
club's Player of the Year.



But looking back on a hectic
season, you can sympathise with
Neil when he breathes a huge sigh
of relief and confesses: "Thank
God the season's over!"

Continues Neil: "I've seen a lot
of ups and downs in my career but
this season takes some beating."

"For three-quarters of the
campaign we played some
excellent football and looked as
though we would win promotion
comfortably."

Downhill

"However things then went
downhill as the pressure mounted
and we were struggling in our last
few games."

"And when we needed a point
from our last match of the season
at Bradford, it was the most
nerve-racking experience I've ever
been through."

"I don't know how the
youngsters coped because I was
nervous even after 17 years in the
game."

"So naturally we got off to a
shaky start and Bradford went a
goal ahead after just 24 minutes.
Then we threw everything at
them but it wasn't until four
minutes from time that Trevor
Morley got the equalising goal
which meant promotion."

"Trevor's goal came as a great
relief and it now has to rank as the
highlight of my career - despite
the toll it took on me!"

Neil has gone through a
rejuvenation period which saw
him guide City's youngsters
through all the difficulties and,
despite everything, he admits:
"It's been a great thrill. It always
helps having an older player
around when things get heated
and at times I've found myself just
calming players down and making
sure they don't get carried away."

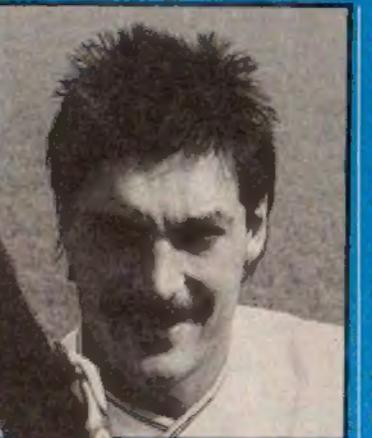
"It's been a great team effort all
round and I think promotion is
just about what we deserved."

"It's also the third time in my

THANK GOD THAT'S OVER!

CITY'S PROMOTION BRINGS

RELIEF FOR McNAB



Above: Trevor Morley -
scored the goal which
finally earned City
promotion.

Left: Neil McNab -
nerve-racking season.

career that I have been promoted
to the First Division but, while this
has been the hardest one yet, it's
also been the most enjoyable.

"And for a city like Manchester
to have two big sides in the top
flight is only right."

"The fans can now look forward
to the good old-fashioned derbies
they used to enjoy."

But Neil is also quick to point
out that the club will have to
invest in new players to become a
real force in the First Division.

Experience

"We need more experience just
to balance things out," he says.
"We need a couple more older
heads to get a well-balanced side.
But I still think we'll do well
next season. The First Division is
certainly the weakest I've seen
and I think we can exploit that."

"And with one or two new
signings, I think City will be a
team to be reckoned with next
season!"

ANDY THORN finally
ended months of
speculation surrounding
his future, declaring:
"I'm staying at
Newcastle."

The 22-year-old centre-
back has been reported to
have had talks with a
number of top First Division
clubs as his first season at
St James' Park has turned
into a disaster.

After joining the club from FA
Cup winners Wimbledon last
summer, Andy's high hopes of

the prospect of playing in the
Second Division.
"When I signed for Newcastle
I had high hopes of success and
I never imagined that my first
season would end on such a
disappointing note."

"But I'm realistic enough to
know players have to accept
both the highs and the lows in
football."

"So we now have to look to
the future and I'm confident
enough that we can bounce
back to the First Division next

THORN IN YOUR SIDE!

**ANDY
WON'T QUIT
RELEGATED
MAGPIES**

season."
In addition to facing the
prospect of Second Division
football, Andy and his team-
mates have also had to face the
wrath of manager Jim Smith
who accused the players of lack
of commitment and of letting
everybody down.

And that 'Magpies' misery
has led to rumours that Andy
will quit Jim Smith's side in the
summer.

However,

the former England
Under-21 defender is quick to
dismiss the speculation,

insisting: "I'm going nowhere."

Adds Andy:

"I've seen all the

stories in the newspapers

about a possible move but it's

all nonsense.

"I haven't spoken to any

clubs about a transfer so, as far

as I'm concerned, I'm happy to

stay at Newcastle - despite our

relegation."

Despite his commitment to

the St James' Park side, Andy

is the first to admit that his first

season on Tyneside couldn't

have been much worse.

"While everyone at the club

is upset at our relegation, it's

been worse for me because I've

gone from the highlight of my

career to the lowest ebb in just

12 months," Andy says.

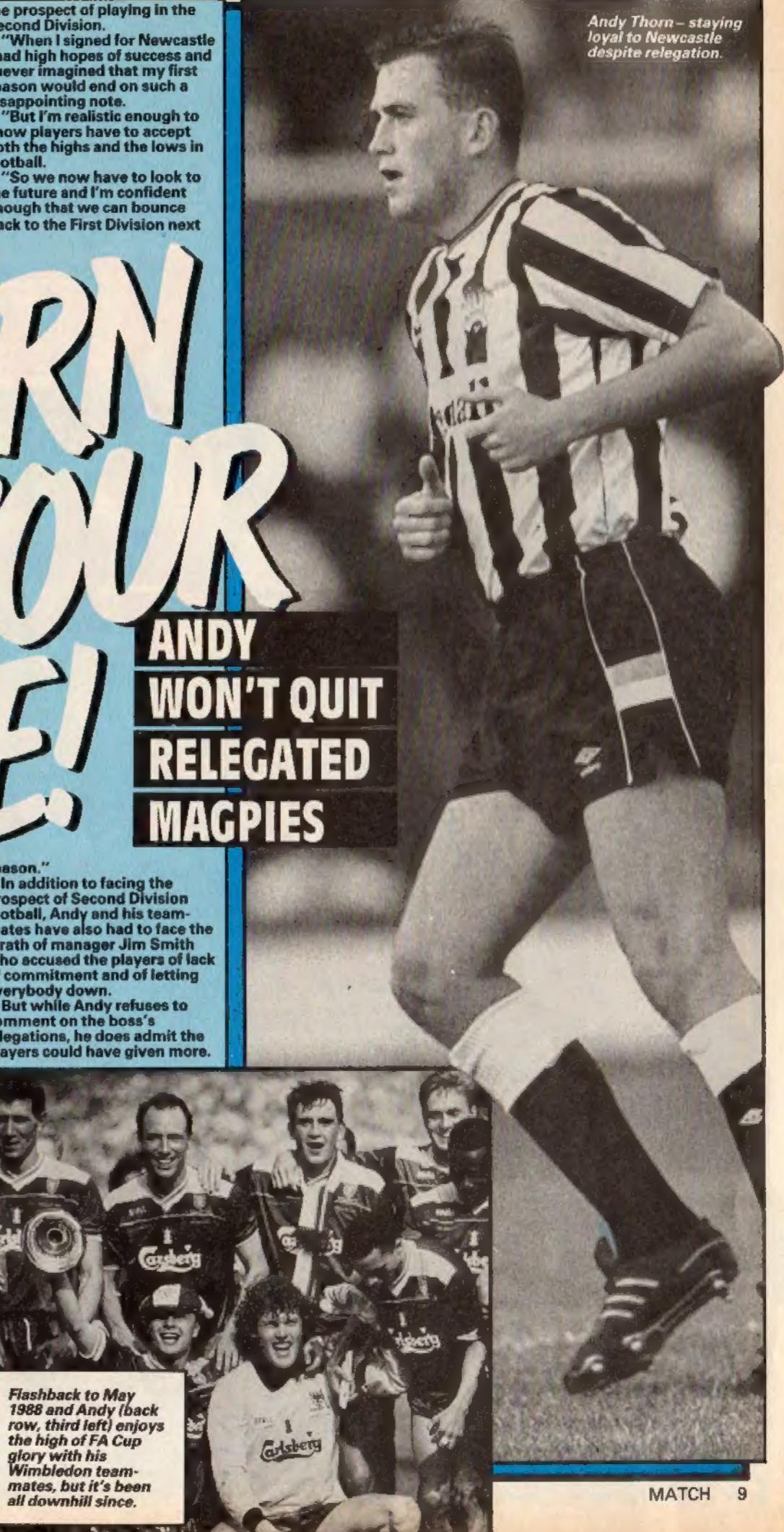
"This time last year I was

celebrating after winning the

FA Cup with Wimbledon but

now I can only look forward to

Flashback to May
1988 and Andy (back
row, third left) enjoys
the high of FA Cup
glory with his
Wimbledon team-
mates, but it's been
all downhill since.



Andy Thorn - staying
loyal to Newcastle
despite relegation.

COLLIERY
ROVERS
7.30
KICK OFF



MATCH READERS SHOW THEIR GENEROSITY

THE generosity and warmth of MATCH readers has been overwhelming as the money has flooded in for the MATCH Hillsborough Appeal Fund. And the name of every reader who makes a donation – however small – will go into a draw for an Umbro ball autographed by the England squad and kindly donated by Malcolm Russell of Replica World. Send your cheques or postal orders, made payable to MATCH, to the: MATCH Hillsborough Appeal Fund, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ. Include your name and address with your donation.

TOUR-IFIC!

CONGRATULATIONS to caring fans Denise Day and her boyfriend Duncan Everitt, who embarked on a sponsored tour of England's football grounds in support of the Hillsborough Appeal Fund (Editor's Desk, May 6).

The exhausted pair, who live in Bedford, called in at the MATCH offices earlier this week to report that their 24-hour marathon took in 34 clubs – and they had a photograph of every ground visited to prove it.

"Our best reception was at Old Trafford," enthused Denise (24), proudly displaying a

picture of herself and Duncan with United favourites Brian McClair, Jim Leighton and Bryan Robson. "We hope to be able to send at least £500 to the fund when all the money is in."

Denise began the 24-hour drive only a few days after coming out of hospital where she had been treated for a kidney complaint. What a tremendous effort!

EDITOR'S DESK

WITH MELVYN BAGNALL



HERE COME THE GLORY BOYS!

Don't miss next week's MATCH.

DON'T MISS another magnificent pull-out colour poster FREE with next week's MATCH!

The Glory Boys' is the third in our exciting and exclusive MATCH WINNERS double-sided poster series.

LATEST circulation figures show that MATCH is increasing sales ten times faster than any other football weekly. So make certain not to miss your copy of Britain's brightest and best soccer magazine by filling in this coupon and handing it to your newsagent.

Meet the men who have grabbed the headlines – and the trophies – in the action-packed poster to be found folded into the middle of our June 3 issue.

So look out for MATCH in the shops next week. We won't be hard to miss – your super poster will be pictured on the front cover and, in any case, MATCH will be the only football magazine with a free gift!

Great value gifts just keep coming from MATCH, one of the reasons why our sales are rocketing to record heights.

But with more and more fans turning to football's number one magazine, make sure you get your copy by asking your newsagent to save or deliver it every week. To help you we've printed a coupon for just that purpose (see left).

TO MY NEWSAGENT

Please reserve/deliver my copy of MATCH every week until further notice.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Signed.....



Glory boy Nigel Clough whose two goals helped Forest win the Littlewoods Cup this season.

EXCLUSIVE!

THERE'S a double dose of exclusive big match action in next week's issue.

To include colour from the Scotland v England clash AND the Sherpa Van Trophy Final we've delayed printing by 24 hours.

MATCH will be the only football weekly with colour from BOTH the Hampden and Wembley games. So remember, next week's MATCH will be on sale Thursday, June 1. GET IT OR REGRET IT!

RIPLEY WON'T MOVE

STUART RIPLEY has dashed the hopes of clubs eyeing up his £1 million-rated talent by pledging his long-term future to Ayresome Park.

The 21-year-old striker has been the subject of much speculation which heightened when Middlesbrough were relegated from the First Division earlier this month.

And news of Stuart's decision to stay with the club will come as a big boost to North-East football which has recently suffered an alarming decline in fortunes.

Says Stuart: "I keep reading talk about my future in the papers and feel it's only fair to set the record straight.

"I have signed a four-year contract at the club which still has three years to run but as far as I'm concerned I'd be happy to sign for another five!

"I love the club and have no intention of leaving. The only way I would go is if the manager saw fit to sell me.

"The fact we've just been relegated has done nothing to change my opinion. If anything, it makes me more determined to stay and help get the club back in the First Division."

Tough nut!

Stuart is convinced that next season will see a revival in the fortunes of North East football which has suffered so tragically this year, although he admits that both Middlesbrough and Newcastle will find the Second Division a tough nut to crack.

Says Stuart: "I still can't believe we've been relegated in our first season, although a number of reasons have contributed to our downfall.

"The club has suffered from their fair share of injuries which hasn't helped and, without making too many excuses, we never had a settled side.

"But I suppose we never came to grips with the quality of the First Division and underestimated many of the sides.

"The likes of Liverpool and Nottingham Forest run you ragged and you are lucky if you see the ball in 90 minutes while every mistake you make gets punished.

"Bridging the gap between First and Second Division football is a real problem and that's why promoted sides struggle so much.

"I honestly believe you can count yourself lucky if you survive a season in the top flight after gaining promotion.

"Millwall have done tremendously but even they began to show signs of cracking up towards the end of the season.

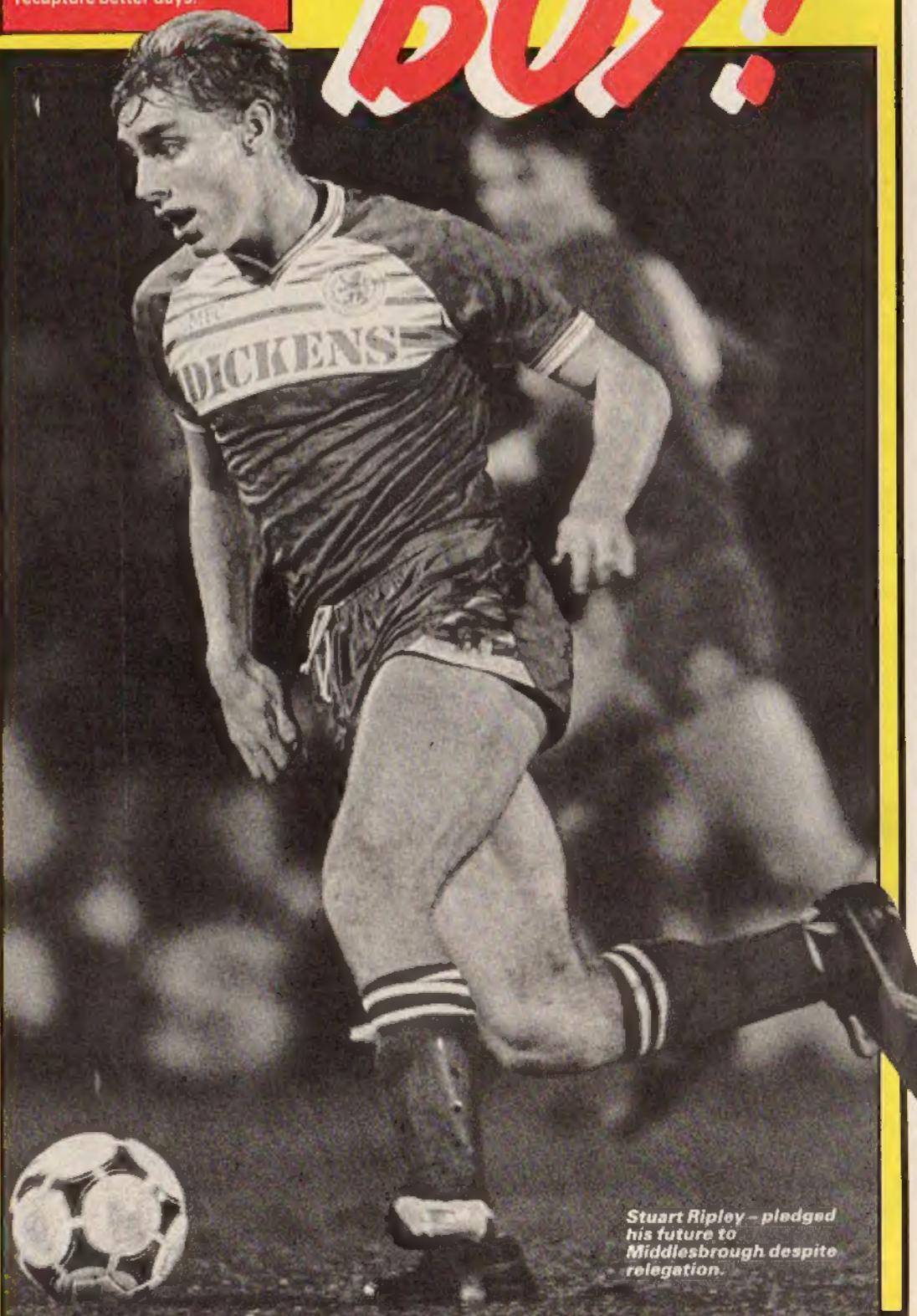
"Our priority now is to bounce right back and, as long as we can hold on to our best

players, I'm almost certain we will.

"The big clubs will see our relegation as an opportunity to buy up our best players – people like Colin Cooper, Tony Mowbray, Gary Pallister and Mark Brennan – but I'm confident all of them will follow in my footsteps and stay.

"We know what it takes to get out of the Second Division, although I think it will be a lot harder than two seasons ago, especially with clubs like Newcastle, Sunderland, Wolves and Leeds desperate to recapture better days."

BORO BOY!



Stuart Ripley – pledged his future to Middlesbrough despite relegation.

ROOTHERHAM'S DIVISION 4 CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS



ROOTHERHAM ENGLAND

BY C. G. G.

FOURTH Division Champions Rotherham celebrate with the Barclays League trophy following their 0-0 draw with Cambridge on the final Saturday of the season.

BACK ROW (left to right): John Green, Nigel Johnson, Billy Russell, Bobby Williamson, Stewart Evans, John Buckley, Paul Haycock, Clive Mendonca, Phil Crosby, Andy Barnsley, Pat Heard. FRONT ROW: Tony Greash, Kelham O'Hanlon, Martin Scott, Shaun Goodwin, Mark Dempsey, Daz Hazel.

SUMMER TIME SPECIALS



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299			193	Postage and Packing UK £1.30, Europe £11.99, OS £11.99		261	262 263 264 265	Postage and Packing UK £2.50, Europe £11.99, OS £11.99
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302			196	Postage and Packing UK £1.30, Europe £11.99, OS £11.99		276	277 278 279 280	Postage and Packing UK £2.50, Europe £11.99, OS £11.99

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Address			
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HAMPDEN PARK will be full to the rafters on Saturday when Scotland take on England in what promises to be a full-blooded Rous Cup tie. Here MATCH columnist Emlyn Hughes looks forward to seeing Nigel Clough make his debut in an England win while Scottish star Richard Gough has other plans...



Richard Gough - "The fans will leave us in no doubt about how important it is to beat the English."

IBROX RIVALRY ADDS EXTRA SPICE TO HAMPDEN SHOWDOWN

explains.

"But when we go on to the pitch this weekend the crowd will leave us in no doubt about how important it is to beat the English.

"And with a few members of their squad also having been on the receiving end of a few hammerings in the Ibrox five-a-sides, the players too will be fired up for the match.

"They will be looking for a

THE traditional confrontation between Scotland and England may have lost some of its magic in recent years but when Richard Gough pulls a dark blue shirt over his head on Saturday, all the old rivalries will again come to the fore.

"The World Cup and the European Championship are now the main events, with the abandonment of the Home Internationals and the tendency to switch the Wembley match to a midweek date all detracting from the appeal of the Scotland-England clash," he

confidence-boosting win as their World Cup tie with Poland draws near, while we are keen to carry our recent good form into the new season for our games against France, Yugoslavia and Norway.

"So it could turn out to be a good, old-fashioned British cup tie."

Deservedly chosen as Scotland's Footballer of the Year, Richard has enjoyed a memorable season for both club and country.

Since his £1.2 million move from Spurs, he has formed secure centre back partnerships - first with Graham Roberts and now with the fit-again Terry Butcher - and his contribution to the 'Light Blues' success this season cannot be overstated.

But it is in the right-back role that he has starred for Scotland.

And clearly the mood in Andy Roxburgh's squad is currently

RESULTS of the last ten meetings between Scotland and England at Hampden.

May 27, 1972
SCOTLAND 0
ENGLAND 1 (Ball)
February 14, 1973
SCOTLAND 0
ENGLAND 5 (Channon, Chivers, Clarke (2), og)
May 18, 1974
SCOTLAND 2 (Jordan, og)
ENGLAND 0
May 15, 1976
SCOTLAND 2 (Masson, Dalglish)
ENGLAND 1 (Channon)
May 20, 1978
SCOTLAND 0
ENGLAND 1 (Coppell)
May 24, 1980
SCOTLAND 0
ENGLAND 2 (Coppell, Brooking)
May 29, 1982
SCOTLAND 0
ENGLAND 1 (Mariner)
May 26, 1984
SCOTLAND 1 (McGhee)
ENGLAND 1 (Woodcock)
May 25, 1985
SCOTLAND 1 (Gough)
ENGLAND 0
May 23, 1987
SCOTLAND 0
ENGLAND 0

NIGEL CLOUGH should make up for two lost years on Saturday.

That's the period of time the Nottingham Forest striker should have been on the England scene instead of having to kick his heels in the Under-21 side.

But all that will hopefully be forgotten at Hampden when, if Bobby Robson's got anything about him at all, he will throw

THE EMLYN HUGHES COLUMN

CLOUGH'S LOST YEARS

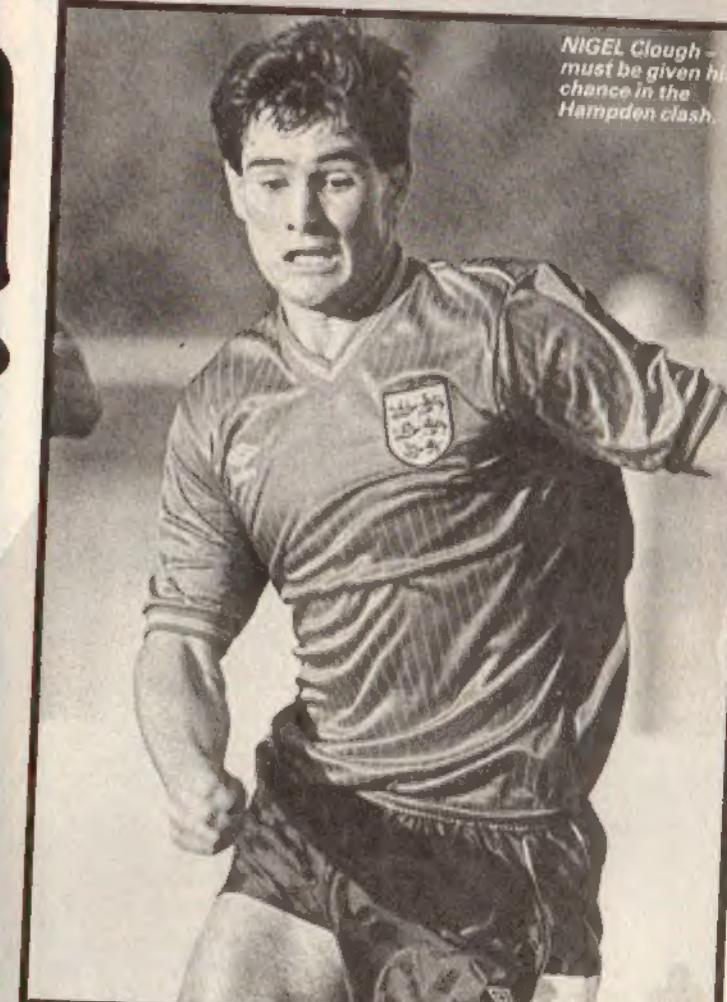
Poland World Cup game a week later.

Bobby Robson knows his best team now, but the emergence of Nigel - and Spurs' Paul Gascoigne if he's given a chance - would be a real bonus for the England boss.

But we all know Bobby, and I reckon most people know my views on him now.

All the same he should pick Clough and Gascoigne, tell them to go out and enjoy themselves (as 'Gazza' would anyway), and then sit back and let the whole of England enjoy another thrashing of the Scots.

NIGEL Clough - must be given his chance in the Hampden clash.



LITTLE AND CHARGE

• HOW it looked at the bottom of Division Four following the programme on the final Saturday of the season with Darlington seven points adrift of the rest:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colchester	46	12	14	20	60	78	50
Doncaster	46	13	10	23	49	78	49
Darlington	46	8	18	20	53	76	42

Brian Little celebrates with the League Championship trophy following Aston Villa's success in 1981. Now he must put all his experience to use at the other end of the football scale

DARLINGTON AIM TO BOUNCE BACK

BRIAN LITTLE has given Darlington a massive boost in the wake of the club losing their fight for League survival.

The 35-year-old took over as manager on a week-to-week basis in February with the unenviable task of turning the club's fortunes around.

And although his fight was in vain, Brian has pledged to bring back League football to Feethams Ground by signing a new two-year contract.

Says Brian: "I gave myself three months to save the club and couldn't. It's as simple as that."

"There were a number of reasons why, including poor home form, injuries and our own inconsistency, but the big turning point came when we lost at home to Colchester in April.

"Had we won that fixture I believe we could have saved ourselves but, on the day, they

were more desperate than us and got the result they wanted."

While Colchester's form improved towards the end of the season, Darlington's suffered and the team travelled to Scunthorpe on Saturday May 6 knowing only a win would do, but they lost 5-1 and with it their League status.

Says Brian: "That result came as no surprise. There was no way we could contend with Colchester's late form so our results were meaningless.

"My priority now is to build a side not only capable of winning the Conference but with the ability to maintain a challenge for promotion when we get back in the Football League.

"It won't be easy but I'm sure we can succeed. We have a new chairman and the spirit at the club remains high despite all that's happened."

Just like Lincoln

DARLINGTON defender Jim Willis is convinced the club could have saved their League status had they acted more quickly.

The 20-year-old believes the arrival of Brian Little as manager came six months too late when only a miracle could have saved the club.

But despite the prospect of life in non-League football, Jim is adamant the club will follow in the footsteps of Lincoln and bounce straight back.

Says Jim: "Although Brian did everything in his power to save the club, he arrived far too late. He didn't have a chance.

"I for one expected the club to do quite well and possibly be involved in the promotion race – not a desperate fight to preserve our League status – although as the season progressed it became more apparent the team would struggle.

"So when we eventually found ourselves bottom of the table and heading out of the Football League, no-one was surprised.

"It's important now that we show a lot of character and bounce straight back and the purchase of players to strengthen the squad is essential."

FELGATE'S WEMBLEY DREAM COMES TRUE



SHERPA VAN SHOOT-OUT

FAMILY HONOUR FIRES McNICHOL



ABOVE Jim McNichol – hoping to make amends for family disappointment in this year's Littlewoods Cup Final.
LEFT: Tim Breacker, his brother-in-law is out to make up for the sadness surrounding Luton's Wembley defeat.

TORQUAY skipper Jim McNichol has already witnessed the disappointment of Wembley defeat this season and is determined to make amends on Sunday.

The 30-year-old defender, brother-in-law of Luton's Tim Breacker, was at Wembley when the 'Hatters' lost to Nottingham Forest in last month's Littlewoods Cup Final.

So after suffering one Wembley heartache, Jim is out to ensure that his family have at least one football success this season.

Says Jim: "I watched Tim pick up a Littlewoods Cup winners' medal against Arsenal in 1988 but I was so sorry for him when Luton lost to Forest last month.

"They say there is no worse place to lose than at Wembley so Tim and the other Luton lads were understandably upset at their defeat.

"No words can console someone who has lost in a Final but, if we can beat Bolton on Sunday, that may go some way towards making up for Tim's Wembley disappointment.

"Hopefully our family won't

have another Final defeat to contend with."

But while Jim is hoping they don't suffer the disappointment of Sherpa Van Trophy defeat, he realises how lucky he is to be part of Torquay's Cup Final side.

After picking up his fourth sending-off this season in a recent match with Wolves, it looked as though the FA would impose a six-match ban on Jim which would have ruled him out of Sunday's showcase Final.

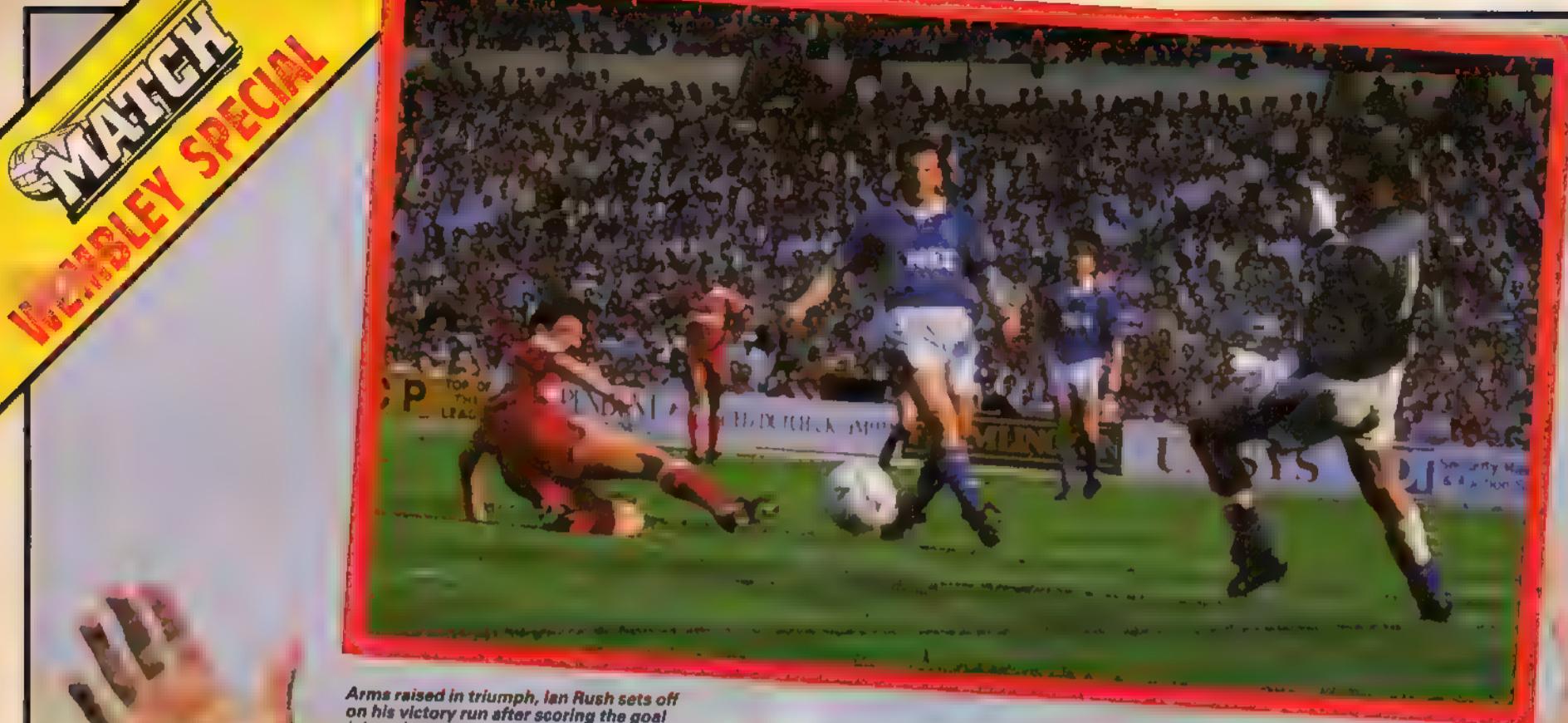
But after getting away with a ban of four matches – and a fine of two weeks' wages – the Torquay captain realises the error of his ways.

"I've been in the game long enough to know better," Jim says. "Admittedly sometimes I get a bit carried away going into tackles and it very nearly cost me a place at Wembley.

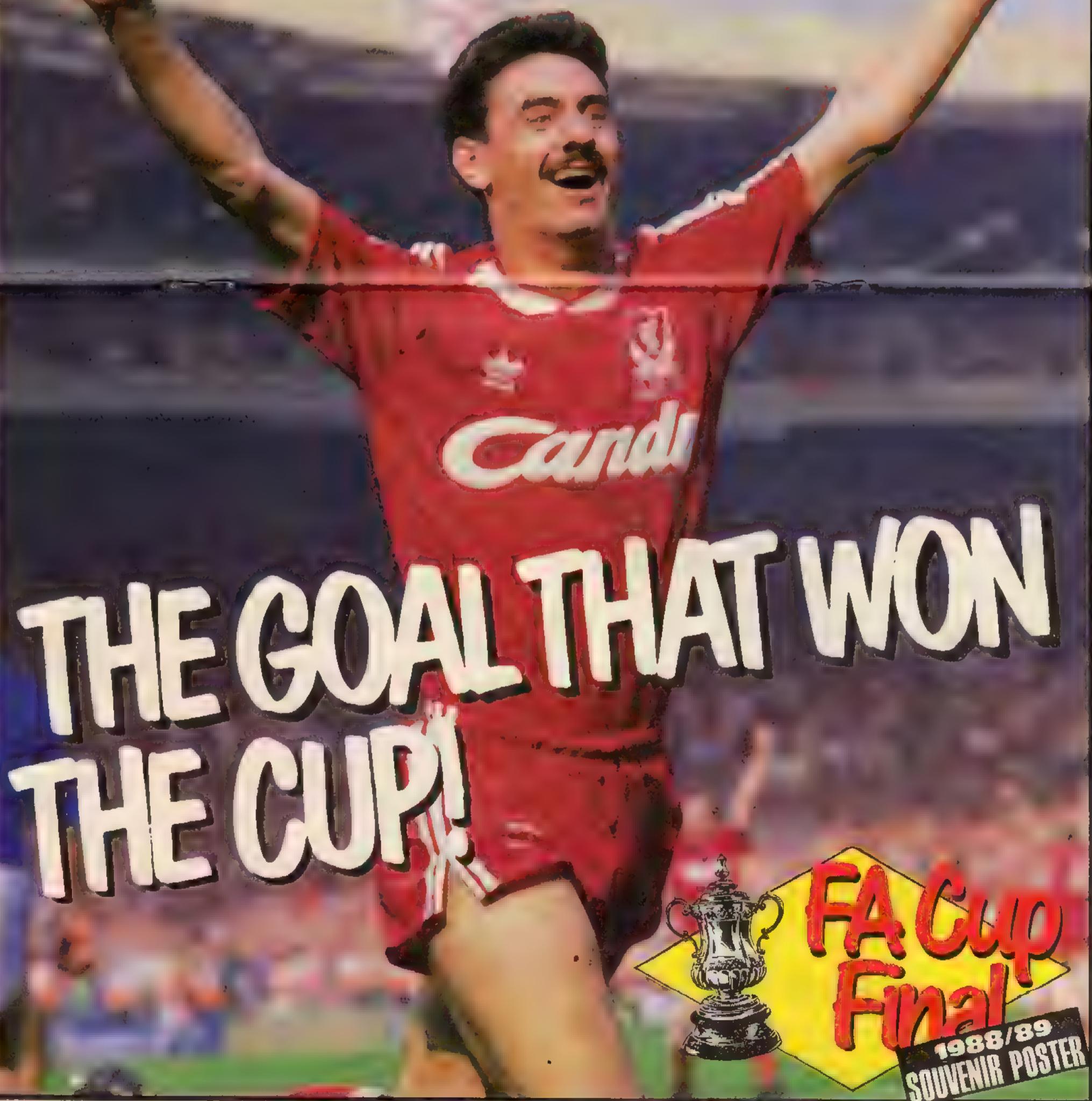
"But the last sending-off I received was for elbowing a player in the face and I realise it was a stupid thing to do.

"I'm very lucky to be in contention for a place on Sunday so I'll certainly be looking to improve on my record."

WESLEY SPECIAL



Arms raised in triumph, Ian Rush sets off on his victory run after scoring the goal (above) which won the FA Cup for Liverpool – timing his run perfectly to guide the ball past Everton's Neville Southall from an inch-perfect John Barnes' cross.



THE striking record of Rangers and Scotland ace Ally McCoist

Season	Club	Appearances	Goals
1978-79	St Johnstone	47	22
1979-80	St Johnstone	15	12
1980-81	St Johnstone	38	22
1981-82	Sunderland	28	2
1982-83	Sunderland	28	6
1983-84	Rangers	30	9
1984-85	Rangers	25	12
1985-86	Rangers	33	24
1986-87	Rangers	46	30
1987-88	Rangers	40	31
1988-89	Rangers	18	10

International apps/goals for Scotland 15 4

• Facts correct to May 12, 1989

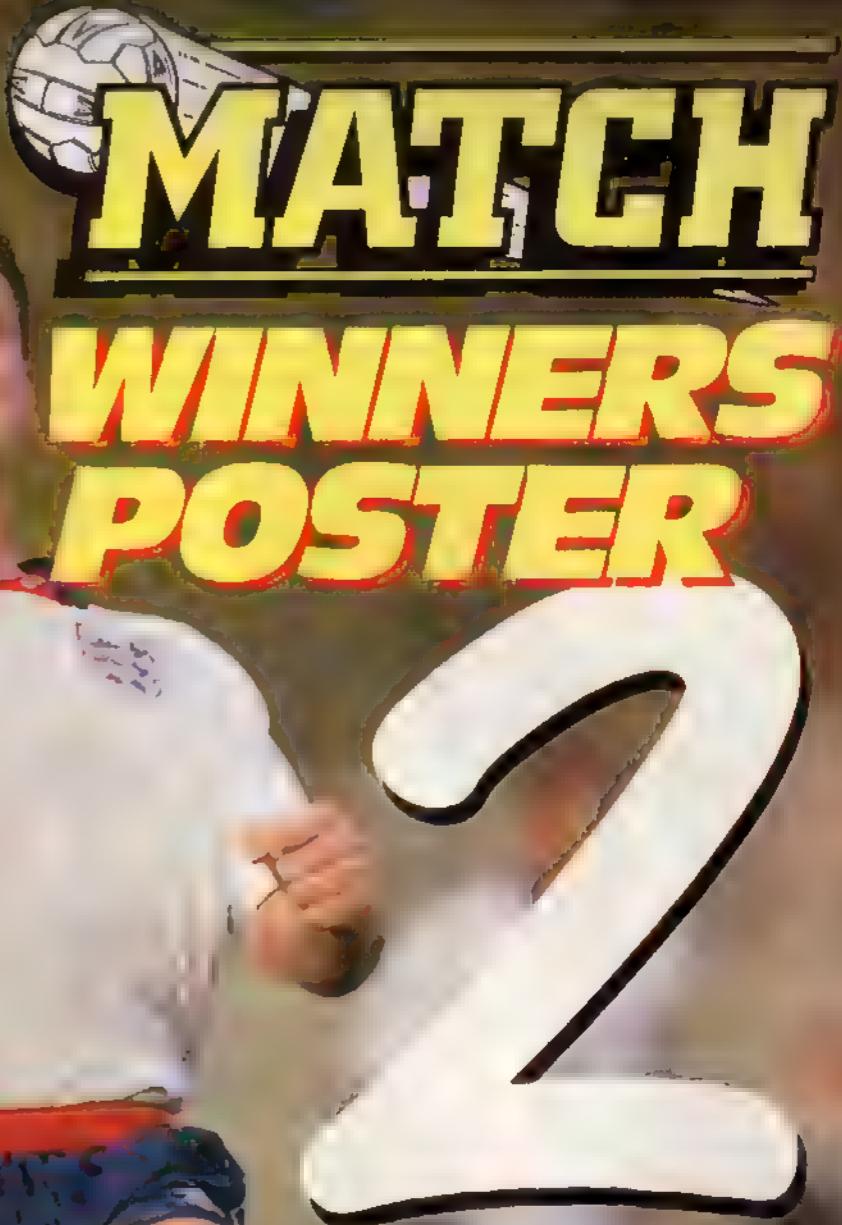
MAGIC-ALK!

Hampden
Heroes

ODD
BALL!



CELEBRATION time for Paul Gascoigne and the Tottenham star will be jubilant, but be punching the air in joyous exuberance again at Hampden on Saturday.



MATCH WINNERS POSTER

Hampden
Heroes

Hampden Heroes

CHRIS WADDLE'S STAR SECRETS!

FULL NAME: Christopher Waddle.
BIRTHPLACE/DATE: Gateshead/Dec. 14, 1960.
HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6ft/11st 5lbs.
SUBJECT MOST HATED AT SCHOOL: Woodwork — the teacher was always picking on me!
FIRST CAR BOUGHT AND THE COST: A 1970 blue Ford Capri for £100.
FAVOURITE POP STAR: Phil Collins.
HOBBIES: Playing snooker and watching motor racing.
FAVOURITE CARTOON CHARACTER: Bugs Bunny.
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSMAN: Tennis star John McEnroe.
FAVOURITE ARTICLE OF CLOTHING: My jeans.



**BRYAN
ROBSON
ENGLAND**

**Hampden
Heroes**





MATCH

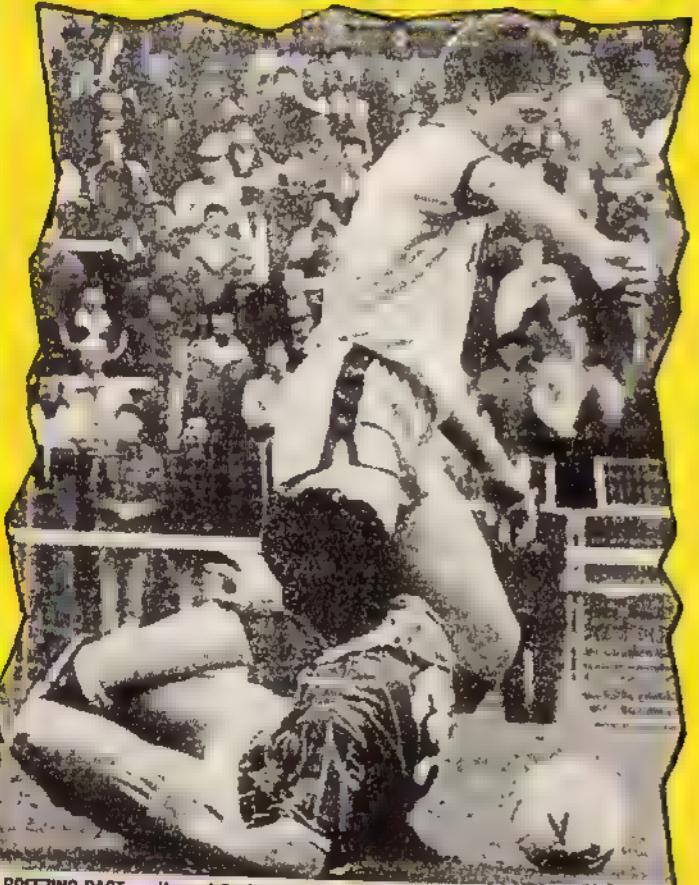
PAUL MCSTAY
SCOTLAND

MICK'S MAILBAG



MATCH welcomes you to the best read letters page in football – with a super laminated Gola Trainer football going to the writer of this week's star letter and a special button badge for every letter published. Send your letters to: Mick's Mailbag, MATCH, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ.

GOLDEN GOOF



BREEZING PAST — Howard Gayle leaves Pompey defender Clive Whitehead grounded

I'M in the middle of a sponsored walk from Weymouth in Dorset to Liverpool in aid of the Hillsborough Disaster Fund. It's a 270-mile trip and naturally I could do with all the support I can get. I plan to reach Liverpool on June 1. Jay Goodison, Flat 3, 9A King Street, Weymouth, Dorset

WHAT'S this? Has former Liverpool player Howard Gayle gone a whiter shade of pale? According to the News of the World he has. Antony Haywood, Whitwell, Notts.

It's a 270-mile trip and naturally I could do with all the support I can get. I plan to reach Liverpool on June 1. Jay Goodison, Flat 3, 9A King Street, Weymouth, Dorset

AS a Manchester United supporter I have been disappointed with the way their performance has rapidly declined in the closing weeks of the season.

The slump can be traced back to the FA Cup exit at the hands of Nottingham Forest on 11th April. It seemed to me the players thought the season was over.

They have forgotten one thing – the supporters who pay their wages and expect 100 per cent effort from the team they support.

I don't expect United to win every game but I do expect them to give their best efforts otherwise they are hurting themselves and the fans. David Smith, Droylsden, Manchester.

I CANNOT believe that nobody has written to 'Mailbag' in praise of DJ Bear, alias Paul Trevillion.

He has become a great success because he shows the fun side of football and is an absolute winner with younger football fans.

I met DJ at a West Ham match and was very impressed. MATCH shows the enjoyable side of soccer and DJ is the perfect ambassador.

Francis Rodriguez, South West London.

● HAVING met Paul last week, I too was impressed with his enthusiasm and love of the game.

DJ Bear offers the hand of friendship to young fans at an Arsenal game.



**GOLA
SPORTS
STAR
LETTER**



MAGPIES SORROW

ISN'T it sad that the three stars of England's 5-0 win over World Cup rivals Albania were all Newcastle old boys – and the club finds itself in the Second Division?

Can you imagine Newcastle relegated if Peter Beardsley, Chris Waddle and Paul Gascoigne had still been at the club?

However, something good may come from what I hope will be a brief stay in the

CONGRATULATIONS Chelsea! The team everyone wrote off last season has bounced back from the Second Division with such force that many people see them as possible First Division Champions next term.

The Blues' turned the Second Division title race into a procession and who would bet against Chelsea doing just the same in the top flight? Ian Wollard, Carshalton, Surrey.

● ME I would!

WHO does Paul Revell (Mailbag, April 29) think he is? How nice of him to suggest that England is the only country in Europe without a football hooliganism problem. What about Ireland?

On Wednesday April 26 50,000 people saw Ireland beat Spain. Was there any trouble? No way! Irish supporters are by far the best behaved supporters in Europe... and probably the world.

Paul Waugh, Cahir, Republic of Ireland.

I'M sure Terry Venables has now silenced the critics who reckoned his arrival as Tottenham boss was a disaster. A 5-0 romp at Millwall, 2-1 victory at Wimbledon, 3-0 success over West Ham and a 2-1 win over Cup Finalists Everton sent the White Hart Lane team surging into the First Division's top five.

The millions spent on Paul Stewart and Paul Gascoigne now look like money well spent and who can doubt that Spurs will mount a very real title threat next term?

Ian Hodgkins, Widnes. ● VICTORIES over teams which, on the whole, have little to play for can hardly be the basis for thinking that Spurs can go from also rans to Champions

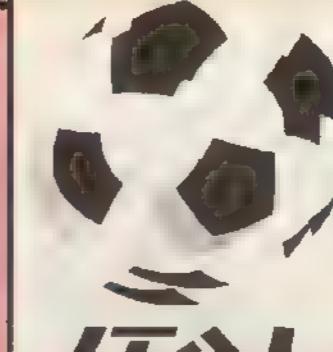
WALES have got to stop being the nearly men of British football – starting with success in next week's crucial World Cup qualifier against West Germany in Cardiff.

That's the view of Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall, who readily acknowledges that nothing less than wins in all their remaining Group Four games will be good enough for Terry Venables' team.

Not only would that give them a great chance of qualifying for the 1990 Finals in Italy but help



Dean Saunders – Welsh danger man along with Ian Rush and Mark Hughes.



MATCH talks to the man with a crucial role to play if Wales are to make it to the World Cup Finals – starting with the visit of the mighty West Germans next Wednesday.

KILLER WALES!

SOUTHALL BREATHES NEW FIRE INTO DRAGONS

them drop the 'bridesmaids' tag which has haunted so many campaigns over the last few seasons.

The Welsh 'Dragons' have had to sit back and watch England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Eire qualify for major Championships all over the world.

But all that has got to change NOW, according to 30-year-old Neville, who says: "We're only a couple of players short of being a very, very good team, but we've got to stop being the nearly men for so many reasons.

"Apart from anything else, the reigning European Champions Holland, Franz Beckenbauer's German side currently top the group.

"But in Ian Rush and Mark Hughes, the Welsh have a striking duo to worry the best according to Neville.

"Obviously it's a bonus having the pair of them back in this country and they're going to be absolutely crucial to our hopes in the rest of the games," he says.

"Mark also had a spell on loan with Bayern Munich last season, so he might be able to provide us with some information.

"The Germans won't be able to afford Dean Saunders any room either. He's been playing tremendously well and always looks like getting goals.

"We proved what we're capable of when we beat Italy over there at the end of last season. That was just before the European Championship Finals, and although I didn't play, I gather they didn't like it one bit."

"In a qualifying group you normally set your stall out to draw your away games and then win at home, but we've only drawn 2-2 with Finland at home and lost 1-0 in Rotterdam.

"So we've got to win all our remaining games, although I don't suppose for one moment that's going to be easy against West Germany and Holland, who must be two of the best teams in Europe."

Fresh from a 1-1 draw with

reigning European Champions Holland, Franz Beckenbauer's German side currently top the group.

But in Ian Rush and Mark Hughes, the Welsh have a striking duo to worry the best according to Neville.

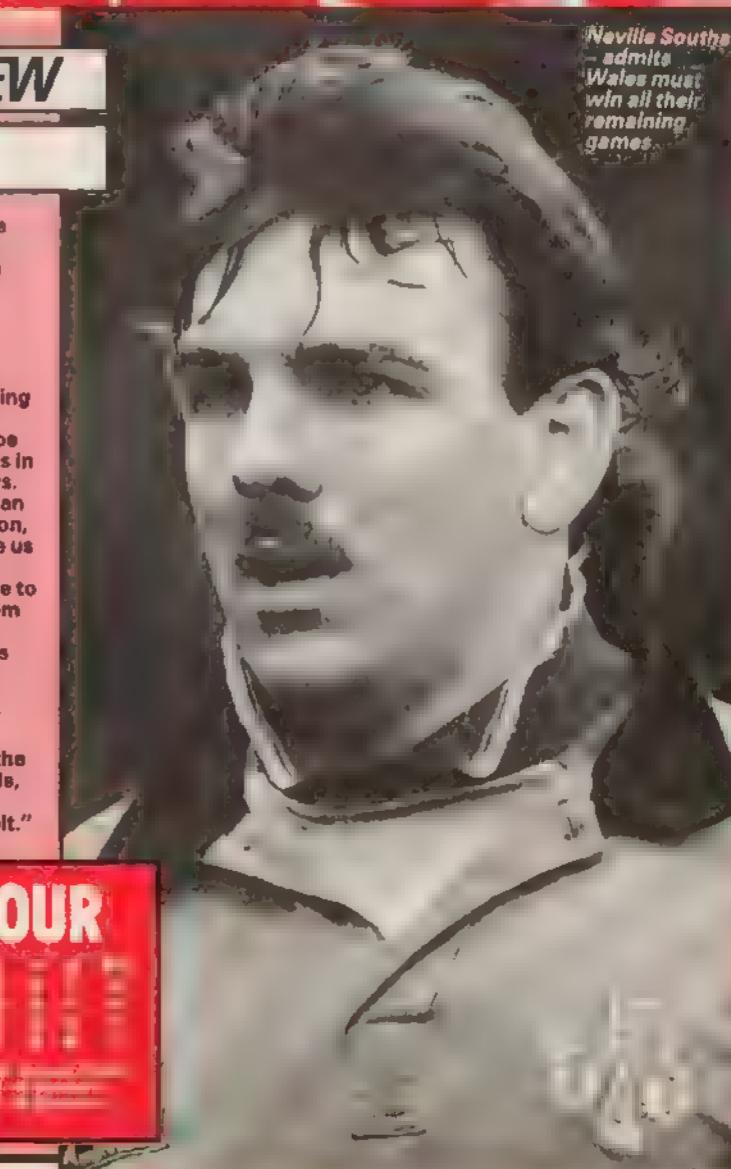
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"We proved what we're capable of when we beat Italy over there at the end of last season. That was just before the European Championship Finals, and although I didn't play, I gather they didn't like it one bit."

GROUP FOUR



Neville Southall
admits
Wales must
win all their
remaining
games.

DOUBT TOPS!

MARADONA PLEDGE BOOSTS NAPOLI CELEBRATIONS

ARGENTINA star Diego Maradona this week gave Napoli fans a second reason to celebrate when he pledged his immediate future to the Naples club.

The midfield dynamo had been reported to be on the verge of quitting the club after losing the support of chairman Corrado Ferlaino.

But in an interview with Italian television, Maradona ended the speculation, insisting: "I won't leave Naples until my contract expires on 1993."

He ended: "The only thing I said to the chairman was that if he no longer wanted me at Naples he could sell me.

"I'm still happy here and want

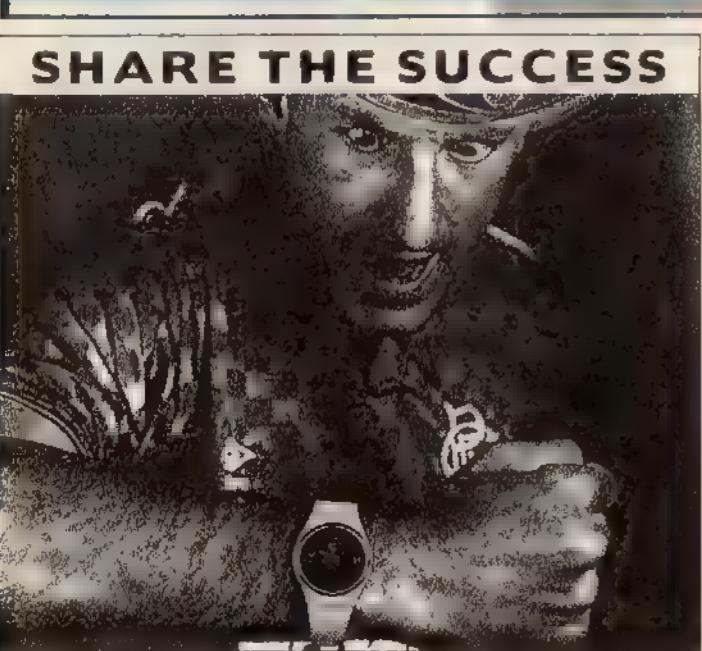
to see out my contract. But if the club don't want me then I'm sure another club will come in for me."

Maradona's decision to see out his contract will come as welcome news to the Napoli faithful who saw him lead his side to UEFA Cup glory following their 5-4 aggregate win over Stuttgart, the Italian side's first European trophy.

Their star import set up two of Napoli's goals then stepped forward to collect the cup as skipper.

But while Napoli have already tasted European glory, it looks unlikely that they will lift the Italian First Division crown as Inter Milan take charge.

SHARE THE SUCCESS



WEAR THE WATCH

Now the double's in the bag, this super club watch is up for grabs. The Rangers watch is quartz accurate and carries the club crest in white on blue. You can't miss it - especially when it costs just £24.95 from official Rangers shops or by post from Lasing Leisure Division, 26A Renfield Street, Glasgow G2 1LY.

Please make cheques and postal orders payable to: Lasing the Jeweller. Please debit my Access/Visa/American Express/Diners Club Account. Credit Card No.

Please send me Official Rangers Watch at £24.95 each plus 50 pence post & packaging.

Enclosed payment of £

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ANTOGNONI TO QUIT

FORMER World Cup star Giancarlo Antognoni is set to retire later this month after 17 years in professional football. The international midfielder, formerly of Fiorentina and now with Lausanne, was a member of the victorious Italian side which won the 1982 World Cup.

PORTUGAL (Leading positions)

FRENCH DRAMA

LEAGUE, First Division

SPORTING 37 18 9 10 50 31 45
Setubal 37 15 11 11 44 37 41

LATEST RESULTS: Sporting 0, Benfica 2, Nacional 1, Medeira 0, Boavista 0, Boavista 0, Belenenses 1, Estrela Amadora 2, Porto 2, Espinho 2, Maritimo 1, Guimaraes 5, Viseu 0, Portimonense 2, Fafe 1, Penafiel 0, Faro 1, Chevao 1, Braga 1, Setubal 2, Leixoes 2

HOW THEY STAND

ITALY

P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Inter Milan	26	8	5	50	13 48
Napoli	28	16	9	50	22 41
AC Milan	28	12	12	45	21 38
Juventus	28	12	10	41	32 34
Sampdoria	28	11	10	7	34 20 32
Atalanta	28	10	12	8	32 29 32
Fiorentina	28	12	7	9	41 35 31
Roma	28	9	10	8	27 32 28
Verona	28	5	16	7	17 21 26
Bologna	26	7	10	11	23 32 24
Ascoli	28	7	10	11	19 31 24
Lazio	28	3	17	8	18 25 23
Pescara	28	5	13	10	24 35 28
Torino	28	6	10	12	29 38 22
Cesena	28	6	10	12	22 37 22
Ascoli	28	6	9	13	22 34 21
Como	28	6	8	14	19 39 20
Pisa	28	4	9	15	12 34 17

LATEST RESULTS: Ascoli 0, Bologna 0, Cesena 1, Pescara 0, Como 1, Atalanta 0, Fiorentina 1, Verona 1, Inter Milan 2, Lecce 1, Lazio 1, Pisa 0, Sampdoria 1, AC Milan 1, Torino 0, Juventus 0, Napoli 1, Roma 1, LEADING SCORERS: 18 - Sereni (Inter Milan), 16 - Baggio (Fiorentina), Cerezo (Napoli), 13 - Borgonovo (Fiorentina), Viali (Sampdoria), 12 - Van Basten (Inter Milan), Carnaval (Napoli), 10 - Evar (Atalanta), Barrios (Juventus), Virdie (AC Milan).

HOLLAND (Leading positions)

P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
PSV	33	23	8	5	75 31 51
Ajax	33	21	8	6	72 32 48
Feyenoord	23	15	10	9	65 49 40
FC Twente	33	10	18	8	44 28 28
Groningen	33	14	8	11	81 49 36
Roda JC	33	12	12	9	49 37 36
Den Bosch	33	14	6	12	46 31 34
Fort. Btt.	33	11	11	11	38 36 33
Volendam	33	13	7	13	42 48 31
Haarlem	33	10	11	12	35 49 31

LATEST RESULTS: Fortuna Sittard 1, Haarlem 1, Groningen 1, PSV Eindhoven 2, Utrecht 1, RKC 2, Maastricht 2, Roda JC 2, Feyenoord 1, FC Twente 1, Volendam 3, Sparta 1, VVV Venlo 6, PEC Zwolle 2, Den Bosch 0, Ajax 3, Willem II 1, Veendam 1

POLAND (Leading positions)

P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
St. Gdansk	24	14	2	3	36 15 39
Gornik Zab.	24	14	5	9	43 20 38
GKS Kat.	24	14	6	4	36 17 37
L. Warszaw.	24	12	6	6	33 13 38
Luch Poznań	24	10	7	7	32 22 29

LATEST RESULTS: Wisa Krakow 1, Gornik Zabrze 0, Pogon Szczecin 0, Rucza Gdansk 0, LKS Lódz 1, Szombierki Bytom 1, Lech Poznań 1, Stal Wroclaw 1, Stal Mielec 2, Widzew Łódz 2, Jagiellonia Białystok 2, Gornik Wałbrzych 0, GKS Jastrzębie 1, Olimpia Poznań 2. ● Three points awarded for a win by three or more goals, one point deducted for defeat by three or more goals.

SPAIN

P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Real Madrid	33	21	8	18	74 30 52
Barcelona	31	18	8	3	66 22 47
Real Betis	32	15	8	12	52 25 47
Real Vall.	32	18	8	10	57 27 38
Celta	32	15	8	11	34 26 38
Seville	32	12	8	10	32 31 38
Real Zar.	32	12	8	12	39 31 32
Osasuna	32	11	11	10	34 26 33
Ath. Bilbao	32	10	12	12	32 31 32
Sporting	32	11	8	12	26 35 20
Logrono	32	9	12	11	23 20 30
Real Soc.	31	9	12	10	31 40 30
Real Oviedo	32	10	8	14	35 41 28
Cadiz	32	7	13	12	24 34 27
Malaga	32	7	15	13	33 44 27
Espanol	32	5	14	13	24 37 24
Real Betis	32	7	10	15	31 45 24
Real Murcia	31	8	4	18	24 49 20
Elche	32	4	6	22	25 58 14

LATEST RESULTS: Valencia 3, Elche 2, Osasuna 0, Espanol 0, Sporting Gijon 1, Málaga 2, Real Sociedad 0, Cadiz 0, Real Betis 0, Atletico Madrid 1, Real Madrid 3, Sevilla 0, Real Zaragoza 1, Athletic Bilbao 0, Real Valladolid 3, Logrono 1, Barcelona 3, Celta 1, Real Murcia 0, Real Oviedo 0, LEADING SCORERS: 29 - Béjar (Atletico Madrid) 23 - Sanchez (Real Madrid); 18 - Selma (Barcelona).

USSR (Leading positions)

P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Sp. Moscow	10	7	5	0	13 3 17
Dyn. Kiev	8	8	2	4	14 9 13
Torp. Mosc.	10	4	6	1	11 8 19
Dneprop.	10	4	6	2	11 7 12
Ch. Odessa	10	4	4	2	12 12 12
M. Khar'kov	10	4	2	4	13 12 10

LATEST RESULTS: Spartak Moscow 1, Shakhtyor 0, Odessa Chernomorets 1, Dnepropetrovsk 1, Dynamo Minsk 2, Zalgiris Vilnius 0, Dynamo Moscow 0, Pamir Dushanbe 0, Torpedo Moscow 1, Metalist Khar'kov 0, Ararat Yerevan 0, Dynamo Tbilisi 0.

YUGOSLAVIA (Leading positions)

P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Vojvodina	29	15	6	8	40 28 35
Rad Star	29	15	7	7	45 24 32
Dinamo	29	14	8	7	38 27 29
Rad	29	10	11	8	38 31 29
Hajduk	28	11	9	8	38 27 28
Osijek	28	11	7	10	43 41 27

LATEST RESULTS: Rad Belgrade 1, Dinamo Zagreb 2, Spartak Subotica 2, Cukar Zenica 1, Vardar Skopje 4, Napredak Krusevac 3, Budućnost Titograd 1, Oljek 0, Red Star Belgrade 3, Hajduk Split 0, Partizan Belgrade 1, Velez Mostar 0, Rednicki Niš 3, Sloboda Tuzla 0, Rijeka 2, Vojvodina 1, Zeljeznicar 2, Sarajevo 1.

WORLD OF SOCCER



GULLIT DOUBT

AC MILAN skipper Ruud Gullit is facing a race against time to be fit for tonight's European Cup Final clash against Steaua Bucharest.

The Dutch master had a cartilage operation last month which forced him out of Milan's closing League games... and plunged into doubt his availability for tonight's

showcase Final.

Gullit decided to return to Holland for treatment from a Dutch physiotherapist and Italian sports pages have also suggested that he left the country to escape the pressure he's been under.

"When you are feeling bad, you feel better in your own home," says AC trainer Arrigo Sacchi. "Having lived in Holland most of his life, it's obvious he should turn to the people he knows best.

"But Gullit has a great desire to get fit and play in the Final.

And if he needs more time, then we'll give it to him."

GARY'S GLORY

LEAGUE, First Division

LEADING POSITIONS: 1 FC

Portsmouth 36, Boro 35,

Leeds 34, Liverpool 33,

Sheffield United 32,

Southampton 31,

West Ham 30,

Everton 29,

Derby 28,

WEST HAM and England star Stewart Robson tells all about the injury which threatened his career and the **REAL** reason he quit Arsenal – EXCLUSIVE!

● Interview: PAUL SMITH

HELPLESS

Arsenal manager George Graham – clashed with Stewart Robson

MY FALL-OUT WITH GRAHAM



SOCcer WORD

ACROSS

- Club to which Bryan Hamilton returned as manager in 1989 (5)
- Ex-Leeds 'keeper between the sticks at Highbury (5)
- Former Liverpool defender – briefly boss at the Manor Ground (9)
- Scottish striker who moved from Wrexham for success at Tranmere (5)
- Doncaster Rovers' veteran Irish International midfielder (4)
- They're useful for planning routes to away games (4)
- Former Old Trafford star who took Bristol City to
- the Littlewoods Cup Semi-Finals (6)
- The last French side to have appeared in a European Cup Final (2, 7)
- Second Division club from the Potteries (5)
- Reading midfielder recruited from Gillingham in 1988-89 (5)

DOWN

- National side managed by Terry Yorath (5)
- Liverpool Scot unlucky with injuries in 1988-89 (9)
- The man who leads the line at Filbert Street (6)
- Emblem associated with 1 Down (4)
- Canary who flew in from (1)
- Home of Birmingham City (2, 7)
- Ex West Brom and Manchester United midfielder whose career was prematurely ended in 1987 (5)
- Veteran Dundee United and Scotland defender (5)
- Midfielder snapped up from Hibs by Brian Clough in 1985 (4)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1. Wiggin; 4. Lukic; 6. Lawrence; 8. Steel; 9. Dally; 11. Maps; 12. Jordan; 15. S. DOWN: 1. Welsh; 2. Gillese; 3. Newell; 4. Leek; 7. Esey; 10. Ronne; 13. Nery; 14. Rice. STANDARDS: 1. Ronne; 5. Goney; 7. Moses; 13. Nery; 17. Esey.

HAMMER

IT'S TORTURE FOR ROBSON

IT'S broken my heart to see West Ham battling against relegation this season when all I've been able to do is watch from the sidelines.

What makes it more disappointing is that we have played some great football but just haven't got the breaks we so often deserved.

The players at Upton Park are gutted about our season but I'm confident West Ham can bounce back if the club hold on to their best players.

I for one will be staying whatever our fate. I have a year left on my present contract and there's no reason why I should leave.

The club have some very good players, especially the likes of Stuart Slater and Paul Ince, although we might need to buy.

We must look to the future and bring people into the club that possess the skills to mount a serious challenge for the top honours and, with John Lyall in charge you can bet your last pound that we will be back to our best.

I FEARED I'D NEVER WALK AGAIN

THE last year has been a nightmare in which at one stage I feared I might never walk again, let alone play football.

The injury surfaced while I was with the England party in 1988 for the Rous Cup games against Colombia and Scotland.

At the time it wasn't clear how serious it was and, although I was in some pain, the doctors told me it was nothing to worry about.

The weeks leading up to the season I spent in a rehabilitation centre and it seemed as though the rest had done the trick.

I played in all West Ham's pre-season games without any reaction and was looking forward to the start of the season with high expectations.

However events took a dramatic nosedive during our first game at Southampton when, shortly after half-time, I collapsed. I could barely walk and feared the worst.

It took the doctors eight weeks to diagnose the problem which turned out to be a pelvic injury and I had no choice but to undergo major surgery.

The operation itself was very painful and involved a bone

graft to repair the damage. Afterwards I spent three months resting, unable to do any training whatsoever, and even now I'm unable to run or kick a ball.

I've spent the last four months weight-training, however, and I'm determined to win my battle.

Footballers have a habit of being negative, especially after an injury, and I remember when Liam Brady

damaged his knee at Derby last season. He promptly announced he was finished but he's been a regular all this season apart from the occasional knock.

I can take heart from that I'm young and I am sure I have a bright future in front of me. I know I'll beat this.

Liam Brady – thought he was finished but bounced back.



Stewart Robson worried he might never play again

MO'S MILESTONES

OCTOBER 3, 1981

AN 18-year-old Maurice Johnston makes the break into professional football with Partick Thistle when he stars on his debut against St. Mirren. He then goes on to make a further 31 appearances in his first season, scoring nine goals.

NOVEMBER 19, 1983

AFTER a £200,000 move South of the border, Mo makes his League debut for Watford but it ends in disaster as they crash to a 4-1 defeat.

DECEMBER 3, 1983

AFTER two games without a goal, Mo repays a huge chunk of his transfer fee when he blasts a hat-trick in eight minutes as Watford win 5-0 at Wolves.

FEBRUARY 28, 1984

FOLLOWING a long list of injuries, Scotland manager Jock Stein gives Mo the call-up for the game against Wales. And after coming on as a half-time substitute, Mo gets his name on the scoresheet to complete a dream debut.

MAY 19, 1984

AFTER scoring in every round of the FA Cup, Mo finds himself at Wembley in the Cup Final clash with Everton. However a below-par performance from Mo – and his Watford team-mates – results in the 'Hornets' losing 2-0.

OCTOBER 7, 1984

MO plays his last game for Watford as they go down to a 1-0 home defeat by Coventry. After weeks of speculation surrounding his future, a £400,000 deal then takes him to his beloved Celtic.

MAY 18, 1985

MO completes his first season at Parkhead clutching a Scottish Cup winners' medal as Celtic beat Dundee United 2-1.

MARCH 17, 1986

DESPITE helping Celtic on their way to the Championship, Mo suffers World Cup heartbreak when Alex Ferguson leaves him out of the Scotland squad to travel to the Finals in Mexico.

MAY 9, 1987

MO plays his last game for Celtic before signing for French club Nantes in June. His time at Glasgow was tainted with off-the-field problems and, although he admits to loving Celtic, he vows never to return.

MAY 12, 1989

ALMOST two years after playing his last game in the green and white hoops, Mo signs for the 'Bhoys' in a deal thought to be around £2 million. Mighty Mo is now back and ready to go again.

First again!

DID YOU SEE the exclusive colour from Saturday's Scottish Cup Final at Hampden on Pages 4 and 5? Remember MATCH is always first and best with the late colour action.

JOHNSTON SIGNING TO SPARK CELTIC'S GOLDEN AGE

THE return of Mo Johnston to Celtic has set the whole of Glasgow buzzing and, almost before the old season has ended, talk among the Parkhead fans is already of next season and the part Mo can play in getting Celtic back on the Championship trail. RAY RYAN gets the verdict of Celtic stalwart Tommy Burns.

MO JOHNSTON'S blockbuster arrival at Celtic is the first piece of a multi-million pound jigsaw which will turn the Parkhead men into Europe's top team.

That's the view of stalwart midfield ace Tommy Burns who believes that Mo's arrival in a £2 million deal will spark a hive of transfer activity at Parkhead. And Tommy is also convinced that the other stars Billy McNeill has targeted will

not only wrest the Scottish title away from arch-rivals Rangers but also bring European glory to the 'Bhoys'.

Says Tommy: "Mo's return to Parkhead is the biggest statement of intent the club has made over the last 20 years.

"It shows that Billy McNeill is very serious about turning Celtic into a major force in European football and he's certainly going the right way about it.

"Obviously the boss wasn't too happy about our performance in the League this season and that's why he's decided to splash out a lot of money on bringing Mo back from Nantes.

"But he knows that Mo can't bring success on his own so that's why he's looking at a number of other star players to bring to the club.

"Obviously I can't mention any names but the players in question are the type who – combined with our current team – can give Mo a brilliant service to get the best out of his goalscoring ability.

"So with Mo's arrival and one or two other acquisitions, I'm

sure we will become a major force in European football. "In fact, we could easily become the best club side in Europe."

Tommy is one of only a handful of Celtic players who were at Parkhead before Mo left for the sunny climes of Nantes almost two years ago.

And with the dynamic marksman leaving with the words "I'll never return to Celtic again," how surprised was Tommy by his return?

"Very surprised," he continues. "There had been a lot of stories in the Press about Mo leaving Nantes but all the talk was that he'd go to another Continental club.

"It was only on the day of his signing that any news about his return to Celtic broke.

"Naturally we were all delighted that he's come back because he is a superb striker who will always score goals.

"And since leaving Celtic for Nantes, his stature as a marksman has risen dramatically and I have no hesitation in saying he's one of the top three strikers in Europe.

"Since returning, he's looked sharper, stronger, quicker and a



CHAMPIONS! Mo pictured with then strike partner Brian McClair and Celtic skipper Danny McGrain after lifting the Premier League title in 1986.



Mo Johnston – showing the style Celtic fans hope will bring the League title back to Parkhead.

Mo's return to Parkhead is the biggest single statement of intent the club has made in the last 20 years
- TOMMY BURNS.

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JUVENTUS CHASE ELLIOTT

ENGLAND hopeful Paul Elliott is set for a dramatic close-season move to Italian giants Juventus.

MATCH can reveal that the former Aston Villa defender - currently playing in Italy's First Division with Pisa - is the man Juventus want to strengthen their suspect defence next season.

Talks between the Presidents of both clubs have already begun, with the move likely to go through early this summer.

At present Italian clubs are allowed to play only two overseas players, but if as seems likely, that is changed to three for next season, 'Juve' look like off-loading Dane Michael Laudrup and bringing Elliott to accompany Portugal's Rui Barros and Russian Alexander Zavarov.

Paul has won admirers with his performances for Pisa over the past two years and many feel he has been unlucky not to figure in any of Bobby Robson's recent England squads and, in an exclusive interview with MATCH, he said: "While I'm very happy at Pisa, a move to a club like Juventus would have to interest any player.

"I've been here for two years now and, despite being one of the less expensive imports into the Italian League, I know I've done well and established myself in the minds of people here."

Paul's contract with Pisa has a year to run but that's unlikely to deter Turin giants

Juventus who can offer the club a bigger profit on their £500,000 buy from Villa should they agree to sell now.

The 25-year-old centre-back hasn't totally ruled out a move back to England but admits: "If a club like Juventus came in for me, then that would be my major priority.

"But if I did end up returning to England, then I would like to return to a London club because that's where I'm from," says Paul, who began his career at Charlton before moving on to Luton and then Villa Park.

"My experience with Pisa has stood me in good stead to play football anywhere. I have had a good apprenticeship here. It's a very friendly and family-like club where everyone has been very helpful.

"Pisa obviously doesn't compare in size with a club like Juventus in Turin but it meant I had a quiet entry into Italian football and was able to concentrate on establishing myself.

"If I'd gone straight to one of the biggest clubs here, the spotlight would have been on me right away. Ian Rush was a good example of that. Juventus paid £3.5 million for him and the pressure was on him from day one.

"I had a little bit more time to develop."

Paul also feels that 'Rushy' neglected the golden rule for British players abroad - and suffered for it.

"For any foreign player, learning the language is the



MATCH brings you the inside story behind speculation concerning the future of England's last survivor from the great Italian player drain.

most important thing," says Paul. "No disrespect to Ian, but I think his major problem at Juventus came from not learning Italian.

"If he had been able to communicate with his coaches and the other players then I think the problems he was suffering on the pitch could have been sorted out.

"Being the world-class player he is, I'm sure with a bit more communication he could have changed his style.

"Football's a simple game and communication with your team-mates can sort out 90 per cent of your problems.

"I made sure I learned to speak Italian fluently and I've benefited from that."

With a successful grounding in Italian football behind him, Paul has now set his sights on an England breakthrough, where he feels knowledge gained from playing against many of the world's top strikers could benefit England in the World Cup hosted by Italy next summer.

He says: "Four years ago, when I was playing at Luton under David Pleat, I felt I was just on the edge of an England breakthrough but it all just slipped away.

"Now I'm a more mature player and I'm playing against some of the best players in the world who will all be here next summer in the World Cup Finals.

"That doesn't make me an automatic choice for England, but hopefully it will merit some consideration."

LEFT: Ian Rush - made a fatal mistake in Italy.

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As a new member you get an official membership card and wallet, a card signed by DJ on your birthday, members-only competitions and your own page in MATCH every week.

DJ's goal is to bring the fun back to football and improve the image of the game so come and join him.

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TOP COACHES
STEVEN GREEN
1988 Super Striker Award winner



MEMBERSHIP COUPON

I wish to join the DJ Bear/MATCH Club and enclose £1 cheque/postal order made payable to MATCH for membership.

Full name (including all Christian names) _____

Address _____

Age _____

Birthdate _____

MIGHTY MASCOT

WITH a heart the size of a football and displaying the courage of a dozen lions, he proudly bounces about the pitch in a Chelsea jersey with a number four on his back.

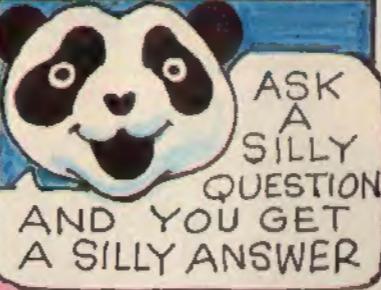
No, it's not macho skipper Graham Roberts but tiny seven-year-old Geoffrey Trowsdale - not much bigger than a skip pad but big enough to have the top specialists at St Thomas' Hospital Waterloo looking up at him as he defies the medical books, goes through the pain barrier and gets the thousands of Chelsea fans shouting: 'Loyal supporter - we love you!'

Your DJ Bear met Geoffrey at Fratton Park before the match with Portsmouth on the final Saturday of the season and his Dad Gary told me: 'He went potty when we arrived here and he saw your name in the programme. Besides Graham Roberts, you are his other hero.'

'He's now the official Chelsea mascot for away games but Geoffrey's really a mini-mascot for the League because he does applaud and cheer both sets of fans.'

Geoffrey's Dad went on: 'It all started at Chelsea's away match at Manchester City. There were over 40,000 supporters packed into the ground and the

PANDA'S PARABLE



MR PANDA
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O-P-PAWS-I-T-I-O-N



BRAVE GEOFFREY IS CHELSEA CHEER-LEADER

referee told both mascots to go down the players' tunnel and sample the atmosphere. The City mascot stood back but Geoffrey ran straight onto the pitch and the whole crowd roared in approval of this little boy who wanted to clap both sets of fans.

'He's been to every Chelsea away match since and it's a medical miracle because, two days before a game, Geoffrey, who suffers from a serious mystery stomach virus, starts to glow with health - such is his determination to be there.'

'The football drug is 100 times more powerful than all the antibiotics he's on. The medical boys just scratch their heads in disbelief.'

Strong

I asked Geoffrey why Graham Roberts is his hero. 'He's so big,' he replied, 'and so strong. One day I want to be big and strong like him.'

In character, Geoffrey already is. He's football's new hero but what a pity all this happened on a day when a few of Birmingham's idiotic fans at Crystal Palace hit the headlines. Our little Geoffrey never got a mention but then the real fans never do ...



BIRTHDAYS
DJ Bear/MATCH Club members receiving a special DJ Birthday Card this week are:
May 24: David Hammond, Stanley; Stephen Robb, Belfast; Danny Hughes, Kenley.
May 25: James Smith, Stanmore; John Allen, Chesterfield.
May 26: Patrick Mallory, Co Mayo; Marco Impagliazzo, Huddersfield; Andrew Wilson, Fife; Stephen Zirger, Rovde; Neil Woodby, Stoke-on-Trent; Kevin Davies, Stoke-on-Trent; Ian McLintock, Upton-by-Chester.
May 28: Philip Collier, Abbey Wood; David Haworth, Darwen; Paul James, Horsham; Mark Robert, Dundee; Ian Liphthorpe, Guisborough.
May 29: Graham Gayhill, Berkhamsted; Daniel Thompson, King's Lynn.
May 30: Andrew Hooper, Grimsby; Christopher Whiffin, Wickham; Andrew Towns, Lincoln; James Kelly, Bridgend; Robert Gates, Woking; Lauren Gatenby, Bradford; Matthew Pickering, Wolverhampton.

NO. 10

LATE-RUNNING
ROBSON!

A PLAYER'S natural instinct on seeing an open space in the penalty box is to run into it. This is not always the right thing to do because you show yourself and make it easy for a defender to pick you up. Study how the master of the late run, Bryan Robson of Manchester United and England, waits on the blind side of defenders until his team-mate is in a position to pass into the gap. This is the signal for Robson to take advantage of the opening - timing his run to arrive with the ball and usually adding his name to the scoresheet.

FEARSOME

FOURSOME!

FOUR names have struck fear into the heart of Third Division defenders this season.

Fortunately for them the nightmare is over but, for their counterparts in the Second Division, the sleepless nights are about to start as they ponder the prospect of facing the fearsome foursome – Steve Bull and Andy Mutch of Wolves and the Sheffield United duo of Brian Deane and Tony Agana.

Between them, the quartet have fired an astonishing 133 goals as their teams stormed into first and second spots respectively – and are now preparing for life in a higher echelon.

Bull and Mutch proved their mettle in Wolves' Fourth Division Championship side and have just been paid the marvellous compliment of being invited on the England B tour.

The pair from Bramall Lane were the surprise packet of the season, however, being brought together by Dave Bassett who took Tony Agana from his former club Watford and then signed Deane from Doncaster in the summer.

They were an immediate hit and grabbed almost as many headlines as their better-known rivals from Molineux.

But just how good are the two partnerships and how will they fare next season?

MATCH put the question to Bury defender Kenny Clements, now 34, who has had a wealth of First and Second division experience with both Manchester City and Oldham.

And he came up with some answers that should be of great interest to the host of managers and scouts who have run the rule over all four players repeatedly this season.



Brian Deane (left) and Tony Agana – Sheffield United's partnership of steel.



CLEMENTS' VIEW ON ...

Deane & Agana

GOAL-BLASTING BLADES

Competition	Goals Deane	Goals Agana	Team total	Partnership's goals as % of team total
League	22	24	93	49%
FA Cup	5	3	18	44%
Littlewoods Cup	3	2	9	56%
Sherpa Van	0	1	4	25%
Total	30	30	124	48%

SHEFFIELD UNITED are a typical Dave Bassett team, hitting the early ball up front to Brian Deane and then working hard and supporting each other.

It's not a million miles from Wimbledon and I suppose Deane is a bit of a John Fashanu in the way he uses his elbows and his knees to battle for everything. In short, he's a real nuisance to play against.

To be honest, there are quite a few similar players knocking about in the League and the player who really caught my eye was his striking partner Tony Agana.

He's got a lot of skill, is very sharp and fast and looks like he could do well at a higher level.

He's the right sort of foil for a big man like Deane and gets on the end of the knock-downs.

So they're effective as a unit, which is what it's all about, but again it's hard to say how they would get on if a club came in for one of them and the partnership was broken.

I don't think they would be successful, but that would be the case with Bull and Mutch. A partnership is something that's unique to two players and you can't re-create it by matching them with somebody else.

I have no idea how Sheffield United will get on in the Second Division but I do know their strikers will make life very uncomfortable for a lot of defenders! □

CLEMENTS' VIEW ON ...



Bull & Mutch

CRITICS say Steve Bull can't play – but he just keeps scoring goals and proves them wrong.

Anyway, they're wrong when they say he's only good at putting the ball in the net because he's got a footballing brain and knows when to release the ball, although when he does get the sniff of a chance he'll always take route one for goal.

And the way he uses his strength reminds me a lot of the old Manchester City player Francis Lee, who had a similar single-minded attitude when it came to scoring.

Nobody can deny Steve does have that almost priceless goal knack, which is why the papers are full of £1 million transfer talk. That sort of skill is in short supply.

He has struck up an incredible partnership with Andy Mutch – who seems to create so many of his goals – although I suspect one of the reasons for their success is the quality of supply they get from the rest of the team, in particular winger Robbie Dennison.

After two successive Championship wins, it's not surprising that confidence is flowing through the team, which is another big help for goalscorers because they won't be shot-shy or worrying about the next goal.

Wolves try to play football and I think they could make a big impact on the Second Division, but a lot of that depends on how successful Graham Turner is at keeping the side together.

It's difficult to imagine how Bull and Mutch would get on if one of them did leave and the partnership was split up, but I'm absolutely certain Steve Bull in particular will score goals in whichever team he plays. □

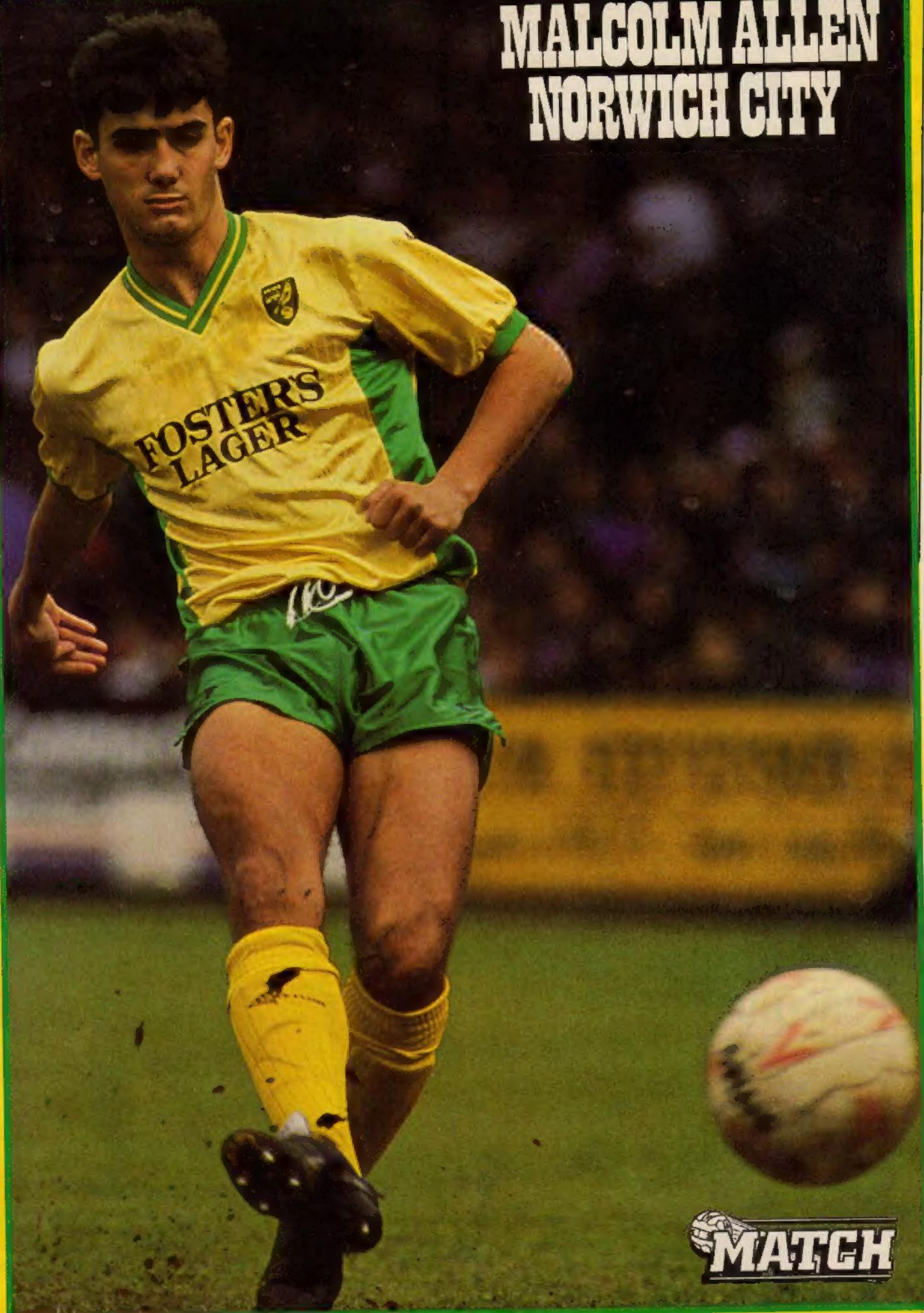
GOAL-HUNGRY WOLVES

Competition	Goals Bull	Goals Mutch	Team total	Partnership's goals as % of team total
League	37	21	96	60%
FA Cup	0	0	0	–
Littlewoods Cup	2	0	3	67%
Sherpa Van	11	2	17	76%
Total	50	23	116	63%

THANKS PARTNER! Steve Bull (left) and Andy Mutch clown with the Third Division Championship trophy – their goals having played a major part in Wolves' success.

HOWARD Wheatcroft reports on two of football's most prolific striking partnerships.

MALCOLM ALLEN NORWICH CITY



 **MATCH**